GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1379
ANSWERED ON:09.02.2017
Promotion of Silk
Tasa Shri Kamakhya Prasad

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government funded projects for promotion and sale of silk in the country;

(b) the details of projects to promote production and sales of the local silk varieties Eri, Muga and Pat of Assam;

(c) whether the Union Government is aware that the local Muga Silk Industry is affected by the imported Tassar silk of China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): The Ministry, through the Central Silk Board (CSB) implements the 'Integrated Scheme for the Development of Silk Industry' a Central Sector Scheme(CSS) consisting of four components viz. (i) Research & Development, Training, Transfer of Technology and I.T. Initiatives (ii) Seed Organizations (iii) Coordination and Market Development and (iv) Quality Certification Systems (QCS)/Export Brand Promotion and Technology Up-gradation. All scheme focus on intervention in critical areas such as Feed, Seed, Breed, Post Cocoon Technology and Capacity Building for visible impact on quality and productivity improvement in sericulture. An amount of Rs.160.50 Cr. has been allocated during 2016-17 for the implementation of the Scheme.

Under "North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme" (NERTPS), 24 sericulture projects are being implemented at a total cost of Rs.819.19 crore with Central share of Rs.690.00 crore for implementation from 2014-15 to 2018-19. Central Silk Board has set up Raw Material Banks (RMBs) for tasar and muga which operate floor price system to procure and supply cocoons at steady prices to reelers and also to protect the interest of rearers from exploitation by middlemen. The seed, cocoon and raw silk prices are regularly updated in the website of CSB to facilitate the farmers to take marketing related decisions. The cocoon and raw silk prices are sent to the farmers and other needy persons through SMS.

CSB has established a Vanya Silk Market Promotion Cell (VSMPC) with the objective of development of marketable designs and products through Research and Development and diversification of products with blends, Brand Promotion of Vanya silk, Organizing exhibitions and sponsoring manufacturers to participate in domestic and overseas marketing events.

(b): The Ministry is implementing the "North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme" (NERTPS) for Sericulture development in NE States, including Assam. The broad objective of this Scheme is to develop and modernize the textile sector in the North East with the

Government support in terms of raw material, seed banks, machinery, common facility centres, skill development, design and marketing support etc. The details of the projects in Assam are as follows:-

Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP): The project period is from 2014-15 to 2016-17 with a total outlay of Rs.66.67 crore, which includes Central share of Rs.47.42 crore. The project is being implemented in Jonai, Naburar, Boko and Narayanpur area of Assam. The estimated project output is 200MT of raw silk during the project period and 95 MT raw silk per annum thereafter.

Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP): The project period is 2015-16 to 2017-18 with a total outlay of Rs.29.55 crore, which includes Central share of Rs.26.28 crore. The project is being implemented in Darrang district of Assam. The estimated project output is 30 MT of raw silk during the project period and 20 MT raw silk per annum thereafter.

The Central Silk Board monitors the project implementation and extend all cooperation to the State Sericulture Department, which is the sole implementing agency for the above said projects. The project has provision for creating marketing facility/infrastructure for production and sale of raw silk production.

(c) & (d): No. Muga and Tasar are different varieties of silk. Muga silk is considered to be superior to tasar silk. The present price range of Muga silk is Rs.12,500 to Rs.15,500 per kg, whereas the tasar silk price ranges between Rs.4,000 to Rs.4,500 per kg in the domestic market. The total import of Vanya silk has reduced during 2015-16 compared to 2014-15. On the other hand, the production of muga silk has increased during 2015-16 (166 MT) compared to 2014-15 (158 MT).

Year Import of Raw silk during the last 2 years and CFY (in MTs)
Vanya
(mainly Tasar) Total Qnty. of silk imported Muga silk

production (MT)
2014-15 650 3489 158
2015-16 426 3529 166
2016-17 262* 2022* 122**
Note: *-Figures pertaining to April-September 2016; **- Figures pertaining to April-December 2016

The following measures have been taken by the Government to improve the Muga silk production:

â€¢ In order to discourage imports of silk goods, Basic customs duty of 10% is levied by the Government of India on imports of silk items such as raw silk, silk yarn and silk fabrics.
â€¢ Central Silk Board is implementing NERTP Scheme with the support of State Governments to increase silk production including Muga in North East States.
â€¢ CSB has set up a "Vanya Silk Market Promotion Cell (VSMPC)" for development of new silk products and providing linkages for sale of silk products more particularly to the Vanya Silk products.
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